

NO: 6; or

- (d) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (c).

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that is at least about 70 percent identical to the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding an allelic variant or splice variant of the nucleotide sequence as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, or SEQ ID NO: 5, or the nucleotide sequence of (a), wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(c) a region of the nucleotide sequence of any of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, or SEQ ID NO: 5, or the nucleotide sequence of (a) or (b), encoding a polypeptide fragment of at least about 25 amino acid residues, wherein the polypeptide fragment has an activity of the encoded polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6, or is antigenic;

(d) a region of the nucleotide sequence of any of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3, or SEQ ID NO: 5, or the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (c) comprising a fragment of at least about 16 nucleotides;

(e) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under at least moderately stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (d), wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6; or

- (f) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (e).

3. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one conservative amino acid substitution, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one amino acid insertion, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one amino acid deletion, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 which has a C- and/or N- terminal truncation, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(e) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6 with at least one modification that is a conservative amino acid substitution, an amino acid insertion, an amino acid deletion, C-terminal truncation, or N-terminal truncation, wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6;

(f) a nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (e) comprising a fragment of at least about 16 nucleotides;

(g) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under at least moderately stringent conditions to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (f), wherein the encoded polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide as set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, or SEQ ID NO: 6; or

(h) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the nucleotide sequence of any of (a) - (g).

4. (Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3.

11. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim 2, wherein the percent identity is determined using a computer program that is GAP, BLASTN, FASTA, BLASTA,

~~AB SUB B1~~ BLASTX, BestFit, or the Smith-Waterman algorithm.

~~AB SUB B1~~ 48. (Amended)
2, or 3.

~~A viral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1,~~

~~AB SUB B1~~ 55. (Amended)

~~A method of modulating levels of a B7-like polypeptide in an animal comprising administering to the animal the nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3.~~

Please cancel claims 46 and 47 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following claims:

~~AB SUB B1~~ 57. (New)

~~A nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3 attached to a solid support.~~

~~AB SUB B1~~ 58. (New)

~~An array of nucleic acid molecules comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule of any of Claims 1, 2, or 3.~~

REMARKS

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-8, 10, 11, 46-48 and 55 were pending at the issuance of the instant Office Action. Claims 1-4, 11, 48, and 55 have been amended and new claims 57 and 58 have been added. Claims 46 and 47 have been canceled. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added as a result of the above-described amendments. The rejections set forth in the Office Action have been overcome by amendment or are traversed by argument below.

1. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submit herewith a substitute Information Disclosure Statement and substitute PTO-1449, both of which fully comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98. Specifically, the substitute PTO-1449 has been amended to indicate the titles of the journal articles, and the substitute Information Disclosure Statement has been amended, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(ii), to provide an